

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An image display controlling apparatus for adjusting the contrast of an image, said apparatus comprising:

discriminating means for receiving an image signal, for discriminating a signal format of the image signal, the signal format including at least one of lightness of the image and color of the image, and for generating a discrimination signal based on the result of said discriminating;

controller ~~signal generating~~ means for receiving the discrimination signal and for generating a control signal based on the received discrimination signal~~for controlling the contrast of a displayed image, in dependence on an input image signal;~~

level adjustment means for receiving the control signal and for adjusting the level of a luminance signal level of said input the image signals, based on the received control signal ~~supplied from said control signal generating means;~~

display means for ~~demonstrating a~~ displaying an image which is in accordance keeping with the level of the adjusted luminance signal ~~adjusted by said level adjustment means;~~

illuminating means for illuminating said display
means; and

illumination controlling means for receiving the control signal and for controlling the illumination brightness of the illumination provided by said illuminating means based on the control signal; ~~in a correlated fashion with~~

said level adjustment means operating in coordination with said illumination controlling means such that if said

illumination controlling means lowers the illumination brightness to a minimum brightness at which stable discharge current is maintained in said illuminating means without attaining a desired image contrast, said level adjustment means lowers the luminance signal level to further adjust the image contrast until the desired image contrast is attained~~based on a control signal supplied from said control signal generating means.~~

2.-4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The image display controlling apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

display image generating means for converting a ~~displayed the image,~~ which is in ~~keeping accordance with the adjusted luminance signal level adjusted by said level adjustment means,~~ into a signal matched to said display means.

6. (currently amended) The image display controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means is a liquid crystal display.

7. (currently amended) An image display controlling method for adjusting the contrast of an image, said method comprising:

discriminating a signal format of an image signal, the signal format including at least one of lightness of the image and color of the image, and generating a discrimination signal based on the result of said discriminating step;

generating a control signal based on the discrimination signal~~for controlling the contrast of a displayed image, in dependence on an input image signal;~~

adjusting the level of a luminance signal level of said input the image signal, based on the control signal generated;

displaying an ~~demonstrating a displayed image which is~~
in accordance keeping with the level of the adjusted
luminance signal leveladjusted; and

controlling the illumination ~~brightness of the~~
illumination provided for said the displayed image unit, in
~~a correlated fashion with the adjustment of said luminance~~
~~signal level, based on the generated control signal;~~

said adjusting step being carried out in coordination
with said step of controlling the brightness of the
illumination such that if the illumination brightness is
lowered to a minimum brightness at which stable discharge
current is maintained without attaining a desired image
contrast, the luminance signal level is lowered to further
adjust the image contrast until the desired image contrast
is attained.

8.-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The image display controlling
method according to claim 7, wherein ~~a the displayed image,~~
which is in keeping accordance with the adjusted luminance
signal level, is converted into a signal matched to ~~said a~~
display unit.

12. (currently amended) The image display controlling
method according to claim 7, wherein ~~said the displayed image is~~
displayed unit is using a liquid crystal display.

13. (currently amended) An imaging apparatus, comprising:

image signal generating means for imaging an object to
generate an image signal;

discriminating means for receiving the image signal,
for discriminating a signal format of the image signal, the
signal format including at least one of lightness of the
image and color of the image, and for generating a
discrimination signal based on the result of said
discriminating;

controller signal-generating means for receiving the discrimination signal and for generating a control signal based on the received discrimination signal ~~for controlling the contrast of a displayed image responsive to said image signal;~~

level adjustment means for receiving the control signal and for adjusting the ~~signal level of a~~ luminance signal level in ~~said the~~ input image signal, based on ~~said the received control signal for controlling the contrast of a displayed image;~~

display means for displaying an ~~displayed image which is in accordance keeping with the signal level of the adjusted luminance signal adjusted by said level adjustment means;~~

illuminating means for illuminating said display means; and

illumination controlling means for receiving the control signal and for controlling the ~~illumination brightness of the illumination provided by said illumination means in correlated fashion with said level adjustment means based on said control signal; supplied from said control signal-generating means~~

said level adjustment means operating in coordination with said illumination controlling means such that if said illumination controlling means lowers the illumination brightness to a minimum brightness at which stable discharge current is maintained in said illuminating means without attaining a desired image contrast, said level adjustment means lowers the luminance signal level to further adjust the image contrast until the desired image contrast is attained.

14.-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising

display image generating means for converting a ~~displayed the image,~~ which is in accordance keeping with the adjusted luminance signal level ~~adjusted by said level adjustment means,~~ into a signal matched to said display means.

18. (currently amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said display means is a liquid crystal display.

19. (currently amended) A viewfinder device for ~~demonstrating viewing~~ an image ~~corresponding to~~ based on an image signal ~~for monitoring, supplied from~~ provided by an imaging apparatus, said viewfinder device comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating a signal format of the image signal, the signal format including at least one of lightness of the image and color of the image, and for generating a discrimination signal based on the result of said discriminating;

controller signal generating means for receiving the discrimination signal and for generating a control signal based on the received discrimination signal~~for controlling the contrast of a displayed image, in dependence on an input image signal;~~

level adjustment means for receiving the control signal and for adjusting the level of a luminance signal level of said input the image signals, based on the received control signal ~~supplied from said control signal generating means;~~

display means for ~~demonstrating a displaying~~ an image which is in accordance keeping with the level of the adjusted luminance signal ~~adjusted by said level adjustment means;~~

illuminating means for illuminating said display means; and

illumination controlling means for receiving the control signal and for controlling the illumination brightness of the illumination provided by said illuminating means based on the control signal;~~in a correlated fashion with~~

said level adjustment means operating in coordination with said illumination controlling means such that if said illumination controlling means lowers the illumination brightness to a minimum brightness at which stable discharge current is maintained in said illuminating means without attaining a desired image contrast, said level adjustment means lowers the luminance signal level to further adjust the image contrast until the desired image contrast is attained~~based on a control signal supplied from said control signal generating means.~~

20.-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The viewfinder device according to claim 19, further comprising:

displayed image generating means for converting a ~~displayed the image,~~ which is in keeping accordance with the adjusted luminance signal level~~adjusted by said level adjustment means,~~ into a signal matched to said display means.

24. (currently amended) The viewfinder device according to claim 19, wherein said display means is a liquid crystal display.

25. (currently amended) The viewfinder device according to claim 19, wherein said controller signal~~generating means~~ includes a ~~communication function means~~ for exchanging the control information with said imaging apparatus,~~+~~ and ~~wherein~~ the viewfinder device makes an inquiry to ~~said the~~ imaging

apparatus as to whether ~~or not~~ the imaging apparatus ~~has a~~
~~function of~~ is controlling the ~~illumination~~ brightness of the
illumination provided by said illuminating means in ~~correlated~~
~~fashion~~ coordination with ~~the function of~~ at least one of
controlling the contrast of the displayed image and/or the
~~function of~~ controlling the contrast of the displayed image.